

Release

The Industrial and Harbor Complex of Suape (CIPS) is denounced for corruption and human rights violations.

The area of 13,500 hectares occupied by the CIPS distance only 40 km from the Capital city of Recife, in Pernambuco State/ Brazil. The region at stake is one of the most valuable areas of the metropolitan cost line, also, the landscape where severe violations of fundamental human rights take place, victimizing local population. Whole communities live under constant fear, subjected to severe social and environmental injustices.

Fisherfolks, small farmers, land workers, peasants, a population reaching up to about 25 thousand people have, since the installment of the CIPS, seen at least some level of violence, going from coercion to truculent expulsions from their homes, with death threats. Those actions have been systematically taken by the CIPS, a State owned company at Pernambuco.

Innumerable denounces made over the years by civil society, affected citizens, local communities and non-governmental organizations, unfortunately, has reached the death ears and blind eyes, of responsible government institutions and public bodies, which, in theory, should be in charge of protecting social interests and the welfare of people violated in their fundamental rights.

More recently, on November, the 10th of 2014, one hundred residents along with members organizations of the "Forum Suape - Social and Environmental Space", being: Action Aid, Centro das Mulheres do Cabo de Santo Agostinho - CMC, Comissão Pastoral da Terra - CPT, Movimento Sem Terra- MST; had a meeting conference with Dr. Pedro Henrique Reynaldo Alves, president of the Pernambuco sectional for the Lawyer's Association Order Brazil (OAB). Main concerns expressed at that opportunity were regarding the truculence of the "security guards" working under orders from the CIPS' "Land Management and Heritage Directory" and functioning as an armed militia in the field, with clear connivance of the State. There were too many examples of forced eviction; contamination of water sources; destruction of family crops and local forms of subsistence; water contamination along with false promises of monetary compensation for their losses and coercion of local dwellers to sign documents without the chance of consulting a lawyer or even knowing their rights. The group required OAB to take immediate action in face of the nature and gravity of the facts alleged. To illustrate the extension of neglect, the land violations were euphemistically called "field inspection" by the CIPS.

After a long silence from OAB, in May 2015, a lawyer and member of "Forum Suape – Social and Environmental Space", who is helping the cases of the local dwellers has reaffirmed those denounces by delivering interviews at a local blog. All denounces made are strongly supported by evidences (official documents, police reports, film footages, and testimonies) resulted from years of legal research.

The "Forum Suape" and its' members fully back all denounces made by the lawyer at the blog (for more information see: <http://blogs.ne10.uol.com.br/jamildo/page/1/?s=Conceição+Lacerda> or visit <http://forumsuape.ning.com> .

Irregularities denounced include illegal real estate transactions, traffic of influence at the judiciary power; omission of the Public Attorney Ministry at Pernambuco, irregular legal schemes to favor public resources deviation.

Despite the importance of the facts alleged, which involves the Judiciary and Executive sectors represented by governmental powers, there was no repercussion on the main media, such as newspapers or TV stations. Not even a public statement from the CIPS or the State Court of Pernambuco. The involved parties remained silenced.

Considering the circumstances and the high stakes involved, the Forum Suape Social Environmental Space and its members are extremely concerned and disturbed by the inertia of governmental bodies and the inexistence of responses. The Forum demands for urgent explanations from the parties denounced, and urgent measures from responsible governmental bodies in face of the alleged situation. The Forum and members also show concern for the safety of Dr. Conceição Lacerda, who had her privacy violated and her house spied by members of the "CIPS security guard". They parked during the day in front of her house and filmed the interior, with a clear intention to intimidate Dr. Lacerda. The individuals were using a vehicle from the CIPS.

Considering the facts, which are described in more detail at the Forum's website, the Forum and members demand:

Broad attention and coverage from communications means on this matter;

International community and national organizations, including NGOs and Institutions working with human rights and environmental justice as well as defenders of transparent and democratic processes to position themselves in support to this cause;

Public organisms from Brasil to have a clear position and support such denounces, taking immediate measures to stop such violence.

Criminal action against coercive actions and threats perpetrated towards Dr. Conceição Lacerda lawyer. As well as the accountability of the Company Suape for the crime of violation of domicile of the lawyer.

Criminal measures and immediate cessation of coercive actions and violence against communities in rural areas surrounding the industrial area and port of Suape, be they fishermen and / or farmers.

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